

The Shepherd's Wisdom

By Mansoor Ali Shah

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

Baba and Mansoor's Evening Walk

Mansoor walked beside Baba as the cool evening breeze gently rustled the trees. The sky was painted with shades of orange and pink, and the sound of birds returning to their nests filled the air.

Mansoor: Baba, I saw a picture of a shepherd today. He was standing on a mountain with his sheep. Why do some people live in such faraway places?

Baba: That's a good question, beta. Do you know that our beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ once spoke about a time when a Muslim's best wealth would be sheep?

Mansoor: Really? What did he mean?

Baba: The Prophet ﷺ said that there will come a time when a person will leave the cities and live in the mountains and valleys with his sheep, just to protect his faith from harm.

Mansoor: But why would someone need to run away?

Baba: Sometimes, the world is filled with distractions and hardships that make it difficult to practice Islam. In such times, a person might choose to live a simple life, away from bad influences, so they can worship Allah in peace.

Mansoor: Oh, so they are not just running away. They are choosing a better place to be close to Allah!

Baba: Exactly! Islam teaches us to protect our deen, just like we protect something very precious. If we are in a place where it is hard to follow Islam, we should find ways to stay strong—whether by moving to a better environment or surrounding ourselves with good people.

Mansoor: That makes sense, Baba. But does that mean we should all go live in the mountains?

Baba (smiling): Not necessarily, beta. Alhamdulillah, we can still practice our faith where we are. But the lesson is to always choose what helps us stay close to Allah. If something is pulling us away from our prayers, kindness, or honesty, we should move away from it—just like the shepherd moves to a safe place for his sheep.

Mansoor: I like that, Baba! I want to be like that shepherd—always choosing what keeps my heart close to Allah.

Baba: MashaAllah! That is the best choice anyone can make, my son. May Allah always guide us to what is best.